

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/663,618	06/14/96	GRAY	F 27866732960

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EXAMINER

PROUTY, R

ART UNIT

1652

PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED:

12/07/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Art Unit: 1652

The request filed on 9-11-98 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 08/663,618 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Claims 19-31 have been canceled. Claims 1-18 are still at issue and are present for examination.

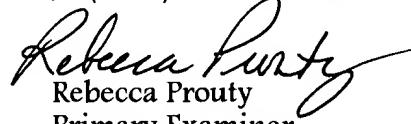
The declaration filed on 9-11-98 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Boot et al. reference. Therefore the rejections of Claims 1-6, and 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and Claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are withdrawn.

A reference relevant to the examination of this application may soon become available. *Ex parte* prosecution is SUSPENDED.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rebecca Prouty, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-4000. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert A. Wax, can be reached at (703) 308-4216. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


Rebecca Prouty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1652